

EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN

The Governing Board desires to ensure that homeless students have access to the same free and appropriate public education provided to other students within the district. The district shall provide homeless students with access to education and other services necessary for these students to meet the same challenging academic standards as other students.

(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)

The Superintendent or designee shall identify and remove any barriers to the identification and enrollment of homeless students and to the retention of homeless students due to absences or outstanding fees or fines. (42 USC 11432)

(cf. 3250 - Transportation Fees)

(cf. 3260 - Fees and Charges)

(cf. 5113.1 - Chronic Absence and Truancy)

When there are at least 15 homeless students in the district or a district school, the district's local control and accountability plan (LCAP) shall include goals and specific actions to improve student achievement and other outcomes of homeless students. (Education Code 52052, 52060)

(cf. 0460 - Local Control and Accountability Plan)

The Superintendent or designee shall designate an appropriate staff person to serve as a liaison for homeless children and youths. The district liaison shall fulfill the duties specified in 42 USC 11432 to assist in identifying and supporting homeless students to succeed in school.

In order to identify district students who are homeless, the Superintendent or designee may give a housing questionnaire to all parents/guardians during school registration, make referral forms readily available, include the district liaison's contact information on the district and school web sites, provide materials in a language easily understood by families and students, provide school staff with professional development on the definition and signs of homelessness, and contact appropriate local agencies to coordinate referrals for homeless children and youth and unaccompanied youth.

(cf. 1113 - District and School Web Sites)

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4331 - Staff Development)

Information about a homeless student's living situation shall be considered part of a student's educational record, subject to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and shall not be deemed to be directory information as defined in 20 USC 1232g. (42 USC 11432)

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

(cf. 5125.1 - Release of Directory Information)

EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN (continued)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that placement decisions for homeless students are based on the student's best interest as defined in law and administrative regulation.

Each homeless student shall be provided services that are comparable to services offered to other students in the school, including, but not limited to, transportation, educational programs for which the student meets the eligibility criteria (such as federal Title I services or similar state or local programs, programs for students with disabilities, and educational programs for English learners), career and technical education programs, programs for gifted and talented students, and school nutrition programs. (42 USC 11432)

(cf. 3550 - Food Service/Child Nutrition Program)
(cf. 3553 - Free and Reduced Price Meals)
(cf. 5148.2 - Before/After School Programs)
(cf. 5148.3 - Preschool/Early Childhood Education)
(cf. 6159 - Individualized Education Program)
(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)
(cf. 6171 - Title I Programs)
(cf. 6172 - Gifted and Talented Student Program)
(cf. 6174 - Education for English Language Learners)
(cf. 6177 - Summer Learning Programs)
(cf. 6178 - Career and Technical Education)
(cf. 6179 - Supplemental Instruction)

Homeless students shall not be segregated into a separate school or program based on their status as homeless and shall not be stigmatized in any way. However, the Superintendent or designee may separate homeless students on school grounds as necessary for short periods of time for health and safety emergencies or to provide temporary, special, and supplementary services to meet the unique needs of homeless students. (42 USC 11432, 11433)

(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)
(cf. 3553 - Free and Reduced Price Meals)

The Superintendent or designee shall coordinate with other agencies and entities to ensure that homeless children and youth are promptly identified, ensure that homeless students have access to and are in reasonable proximity to available education and related support services, and raise the awareness of school personnel and service providers of the effects of short-term stays in a shelter and other challenges associated with homelessness. Toward these ends, the Superintendent or designee shall collaborate with local social services agencies, other agencies or entities providing services to homeless children and youth, and, if applicable, transitional housing facilities. In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall coordinate transportation, transfer of school records, and other interdistrict activities with other local educational agencies. As necessary, the Superintendent or designee shall coordinate, within the district and with other involved local educational agencies, services for homeless students and services for students with disabilities. (42 USC 11432)

(cf. 1020 - Youth Services)

EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN (continued)

District liaisons and other appropriate staff shall participate in professional development and other technical assistance activities to assist them in identifying and meeting the needs of homeless students and to provide training on the definitions of terms related to homelessness. (42 USC 11432)

At least annually, the Superintendent or designee shall report to the Board on outcomes for homeless students, which may include, but are not limited to, school attendance, student achievement test results, promotion and retention rates by grade level, graduation rates, suspension/expulsion rates, and other outcomes related to any goals and specific actions identified in the LCAP. Based on the evaluation data, the district shall revise its strategies as needed to better support the education of homeless students.

(cf. 0500 - Accountability)

(cf. 6162.51 - State Academic Achievement Tests)

(cf. 6190 - Evaluation of the Instructional Program)

Legal Reference: (see next page)

EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

2558.2 *Use of revenue limits to determine average daily attendance of homeless children*

39807.5 *Payment of transportation costs by parents*

48850 *Educational rights of homeless and foster youth*

48852.5 *Notice of educational rights of homeless students*

48852.7 *Enrollment of homeless students*

48915.5 *Recommended expulsion, homeless student with disabilities*

48918.1 *Notice of recommended expulsion*

51225.1-51225.3 *Graduation requirements*

52060-52077 *Local control and accountability plan*

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

4600-4687 *Uniform complaint procedures*

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

1087vv *Free Application for Federal Student Aid; definitions*

1232g *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act*

6311 *Title I state plan; state and local educational agency report cards*

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

11431-11435 *McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act*

12705 *Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act; state and local strategies*

Management Resources:

CALIFORNIA CHILD WELFARE COUNCIL

Partial Credit Model Policy and Practice Recommendations

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Homeless Education Dispute Resolution Process, January 30, 2007

NATIONAL CENTER FOR HOMELESS EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Homeless Liaison Toolkit, 2013

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GUIDANCE

Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program, Non-Regulatory Guidance, July 2004

Dear Colleague Letter, July 27, 2016

Education for Homeless Children and Youths Program, Non-Regulatory Guidance, July 2016

WEB SITES

California Child Welfare Council: <http://www.chhs.ca.gov/Pages/CAChildWelfareCouncil.aspx>

California Department of Education, Homeless Children and Youth Education:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/hs/cy>

National Center for Homeless Education at SERVE: <http://www.serve.org/nche>

National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty: <http://www.nlchp.org>

U.S. Department of Education: <http://www.ed.gov/programs/homeless/index.html>

Policy

adopted: March 4, 2008

Revised: December 6, 2016

GAMUT UPDATE: October, 2016

SAUGUS UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

Santa Clarita, California

EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN

Definitions

Homeless students means students who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and includes: (Education Code 48852.7; 42 USC 11434a)

1. Students who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; **or** are abandoned in hospitals

(*cf.* 6173.1 - Education for Foster Youth)

2. Students who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as regular sleeping accommodations for human beings
3. Students who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings
4. Migratory children who qualify as homeless because the children are living in conditions described in items #1-3 above

Unaccompanied youth includes youth who are not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian. (20 USC 11434a)

School of origin means the school that the student attended when permanently housed or the school in which he/she was last enrolled, including a preschool. If the school the homeless student attended when permanently housed is different from the school in which he/she was last enrolled, or if there is some other school that he/she attended within the preceding 15 months and with which he/she is connected, the district liaison shall determine, in consultation with and with the agreement of the homeless student and the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the student, and in the best interests of the homeless student, which school shall be deemed the school of origin. (Education Code 48852.7; 42 USC 11432)

Best interest means that, in making educational and school placement decisions for a homeless student, consideration is given to, among other factors, educational stability, the opportunity to be educated in the least restrictive educational setting necessary to achieve academic progress, and the student's access to academic resources, services, and extracurricular and enrichment activities that are available to all district students. (Education Code 48850, 48853; 42 USC 11432)

EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN (continued)

District Liaison

The Superintendent designates the following staff person as the district liaison for homeless students: (42 USC 11432)

Director of Student Support Services OR Homeless/Foster Youth Liaison
24930 Avenue Stanford
Santa Clarita, CA 91355
661-294-5300

The district's liaison for homeless students shall ensure that: (Education Code 48852.5; 42 USC 11432)

1. Ensure that homeless students are identified by school personnel and through outreach and coordination activities with other entities and agencies

(cf. 1400 - Relations between Other Governmental Agencies and the Schools)
(cf. 3553 - Free and Reduced-Price Meals)

2. Ensure that homeless students are enrolled in, and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in, district schools
3. Ensure that homeless families and children have access to and receive educational services for which they are eligible, including services through Head Start and Early Head Start programs, early intervention services under Part C of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and other preschool programs administered by the district

(cf. 5148.3 - Preschool/Early Childhood Education)

4. Ensure that homeless families and students receive referrals to health care services, dental services, mental health and substance abuse services, housing services, and other appropriate services

(cf. 5141.6 - School Health Services)

5. Inform parents/guardians of the educational and related opportunities available to their children and ensure that they are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children

(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN (continued)

6. Disseminate notice of the educational rights of homeless students in locations frequented by parents/guardians of homeless children and youth by unaccompanied youth, including schools, family shelters, public libraries, and hunger relief agencies (soup kitchens). The rights shall be presented in a manner and form understandable to the parents/guardians of homeless students and unaccompanied youth.
7. Mediate enrollment disputes in accordance with law and the section “Resolving Enrollment Disputes” below
8. Fully inform parents/guardians of homeless students and unaccompanied youth of all transportation services, including transportation to the school of origin, and assist them in accessing transportation to the school of choice

(cf. 3541 - Transportation Routes and Services)

9. Ensure that school personnel providing services to homeless students receive professional development and other support

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4331 - Staff Development)

10. Coordinate and collaborate with state coordinators and community and school personnel responsible for the provision of education and related services to homeless students, including the provision of comprehensive data to the state coordinator as required by law

In addition, when notified pursuant to Education Code 48918.1, the district liaison shall assist, facilitate, or represent a homeless student who is undergoing a disciplinary proceeding that could result in his/her expulsion. When notified pursuant to Education Code 48915.5, the district liaison shall participate in an individualized education program team meeting to make a manifestation determination regarding the behavior of a student with a disability.

(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)

(cf. 5144.2 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (Students with Disabilities))

(cf. 6159 - Individualized Education Program)

The Superintendent or designee shall inform homeless children and youth, their parents/guardians, school personnel, service providers, and advocates working with homeless families of the duties of the district's liaison. He/she shall also provide the name and contact information of the district's liaison to the California Department of Education (CDE) for publishing on the CDE's web site. (42 USC 11432)

EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN (continued)

Enrollment

The district shall make placement decisions for homeless students shall be based on the student's best interest. (42 USC 11432)

Such factors may include, but are not limited to, the age of the student, the distance of the commute and the impact it may have on the student's education, personal safety issues, the student's need for special instruction, the length of anticipated stay in the temporary shelter or other temporary location, likely area of future housing, school placement of siblings, and the time remaining in the school year.

However, placement decisions shall not be based on whether a homeless student lives with his/her homeless parent/guardian or has been temporarily placed elsewhere. (42 USC 11432)

In the case of an unaccompanied youth, the liaison shall assist in placement or enrollment decisions, give priority to the views of the student, and provide notice to the student of his/her appeal rights. (42 USC 11432)

In determining a student's best interest, a homeless student shall, to the extent feasible, be placed in his/her school of origin, unless the student's parent/guardian or the unaccompanied youth requests otherwise. (Education Code 48852.7; 42 USC 11432)

Once a placement decision has been made, the principal or designee shall immediately enroll the student in the school of choice. The student shall be enrolled even if he/she: (Education Code 48852.7; 42 USC 11432)

1. Has outstanding fees, fines, textbooks, or other items or monies due to the school last attended

(cf. 5125.2 - Withholding Grades, Diploma or Transcripts)

2. Does not have clothing normally required by the school, such as school uniforms

(cf. 5132 - Dress and Grooming)

3. Is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment, such as previous academic records, proof of residency, and records of immunization and other required health records

(cf. 5111 - Admission)

(cf. 5111.1 - District Residency)

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

(cf. 5141.26 - Tuberculosis Testing)

(cf. 5141.31 - Immunizations)

(cf. 5141.32 - Health Screening for School Entry)

EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN (continued)

4. Has missed application or enrollment deadlines during any period of homelessness

The principal or designee shall immediately contact the school last attended by the student to obtain the relevant records. If the student needs to obtain immunizations or does not possess immunization or other required health records, the principal or designee shall refer the parent/guardian to the district's liaison for homeless students. The liaison shall assist the parent/guardian, or the student if he/she is an unaccompanied youth, in obtaining the necessary immunizations, screenings, or records for the student. (42 USC 11432)

If the student is placed at a school other than his/her school of origin or the school requested by his/her parent/guardian or an unaccompanied youth, the Superintendent or designee shall provide the parent/guardian or the unaccompanied youth with a written explanation of the decision along with a statement regarding the right to appeal the placement decision. (42 USC 11432)

The student may continue attending his/her school of origin for the duration of the homelessness. (Education Code 48852.7; 42 USC 11432)

To ensure that the homeless student has the benefit of matriculating with his/her peers in accordance with the established feeder patterns, the following shall apply: (Education Code 48852.7; 42 USC 11432)

1. If the student is transitioning between grade levels, he/she shall be allowed to continue in the same attendance area.
2. If the student is transitioning to a middle school or high school, and the school designated for matriculation is in another school district, he/she shall be allowed to continue to the school designated for matriculation in that district.

If the student's status changes before the end of the school year so that he/she is no longer homeless, he/she shall be allowed to stay in the school of origin through the duration of the school year if he/she is in grades K-8. (Education Code 48852.7)

Resolving Enrollment Disputes

If a dispute arises over student eligibility, school selection, or enrollment in a particular school, the matter shall be referred to the district liaison, who shall carry out the dispute resolution process as expeditiously as possible. (42 USC 11432)

The parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth shall be provided with a written explanation of any decisions related to eligibility, school selection, or enrollment and of the right of the parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth to appeal such decisions. (42 USC 11432)

EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN (continued)

The written explanation shall include:

1. A description of the action proposed or refused by the district
2. An explanation of why the action is proposed or refused
3. A description of any other options the district considered and the reasons that any other options were rejected
4. A description of any other factors relevant to the district's decision and information related to the eligibility or best interest determination including the facts, witnesses, and evidence relied upon and their sources
5. Appropriate timelines to ensure any relevant deadlines are not missed
6. Contact information for the district liaison and state coordinator, and a brief description of their roles

The written explanation shall be complete, as brief as possible, simply stated and provided in language that the parent/guardian or student can understand.

The district liaison may use an informal process as an alternative to formal dispute resolution procedures, provided that the parents/guardians or unaccompanied youth have access to the more formal process if informal resolution is not successful in resolving the matter.

In working with a student's parents/guardians or unaccompanied youth to resolve an enrollment dispute, the district liaison shall:

1. Inform them that they may provide written and/or oral documentation to support their position
2. Inform them that they may seek the assistance of social services, advocates, and/or service providers in having the dispute resolved
3. Provide them a simple form that they may use and turn in to the school to initiate the dispute resolution process
4. Provide them a copy of the dispute form they submit for their records
5. Provide them the outcome of the dispute for their records

EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN (continued)

If a parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth disagrees with the liaison's enrollment decision, he/she may appeal the decision to the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall make a determination within five working days.

If the parent/guardian chooses to appeal the district's placement decision, the district liaison shall forward all written documentation and related paperwork to the homeless liaison at the county office of education.

Transportation

The district shall provide transportation for a homeless student to and from his/her school of origin when the student is residing within the district and the parent/guardian, or the district liaison in the case of an unaccompanied youth, requests that such transportation be provided. If the student moves outside of district boundaries, but continues to attend his/her school of origin within this district, the Superintendent or designee shall consult with the superintendent of the district in which the student is now residing to agree upon a method to apportion the responsibility and costs of the transportation. (42 USC 11432)

(cf. 3250 - Transportation Fees)

(cf. 3541 - Transportation Routes and Services)

The district shall not be obligated to provide transportation to students who continue attending their school of origin after they cease to be homeless, unless the formerly homeless student has an individualized education program that includes transportation as a necessary related service for the student. (Education Code 48852.7)

Eligibility for Extracurricular Activities

A homeless student who enrolls in any district school shall be immediately deemed to meet all residency requirements for participation in other extracurricular activities. (Education Code 48850)

(cf. 6145 - Extracurricular and Cocurricular Activities)

(cf. 6145.2 - Athletic Competition)

Notification and Complaints

Information regarding the educational rights of homeless students, as specified in Education Code 51225.1 and 51225.2, shall be included in the annual uniform complaint procedures notification distributed to students, parents/guardians, employees, and other interested parties pursuant to 5 CCR 4622. (Education Code 51225.1, 51225.2)

EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN (continued)

Any complaint that the district has not complied with requirements regarding the education of homeless students, as specified in Education Code 51225.1 or 51225.2, may be filed in accordance with the district's procedures in AR 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures.

(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)

Regulation
approved: March 4, 2008
Revised: December 6, 2016
GAMUT UPDATE: October, 2016

SAUGUS UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
Santa Clarita, California

EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN

Exhibit 1

**DISTRICT EXPLANATION OF DECISION
RELATED TO ELIGIBILITY, SCHOOL SELECTION, OR ENROLLMENT**

Note: The following form should be revised to reflect district practice. In its Non-Regulatory Guidance Education for Homeless Children and Youths Program, the U.S. Department of Education recommends that the written statement of any decision regarding a homeless student's eligibility, school selection, or enrollment include the elements specified below. See the accompanying administrative regulation.

Instructions: The following form provides notice and explanation to a student's parent/guardian or an unaccompanied youth regarding the district's decision related to student eligibility, school selection, or enrollment.

Date: _____ Name of person completing form: _____

Title: _____ Phone Number: _____

In accordance with the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 USC 11431-11435), this notification is being provided to either:

Name of parent/guardian: _____

Name of student(s): _____

Name of school requested: _____

District's placement decision (name of school): _____

Action(s) proposed/refused by the district related to eligibility, school selection, or enrollment:

The district's determination regarding eligibility, school selection, or enrollment was based upon the following evidence and for the following reasons:

EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN (continued)

Other options that the district considered, if any, included the following options which were rejected for the following reasons:

Factors relevant to the district's decision and information related to the eligibility or best interest determination including the facts, witness, and evidence relied upon and their sources, if any:

You have the right to appeal this decision to the district Superintendent. To do so, contact the district's homeless liaison listed below to request a Dispute Form. You may provide written or verbal documentation to support your position, and may also seek the assistance of social services, advocates, and/or service providers in the dispute process. The Superintendent or designee will review all the evidence and will notify you of his/her decision within five business days.

If you are not satisfied with the Superintendent's decision, you may appeal to the Los Angeles County Office of Education. If you are not satisfied with the county office's decision, you may then appeal to the California Department of Education. The district's homeless liaison can assist you with this appeal.

CONTRACT INFORMATION:

District Liaison: The district liaison is one of the primary contacts between homeless families and school or district staff. He/she is responsible for coordinating services to ensure that homeless students enroll in school and have the opportunity to succeed academically, and mediates enrollment disputes as needed.

Name of district's homeless liaison:
Director of Student Support Services OR Homeless/Foster Youth Liaison
Address: 24930 Avenue Stanford, Santa Clarita, CA 91355
Phone number: 661-294-5300

EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN (continued)

County Liaison: If you appeal the district's decision to the county office of education, the district liaison shall forward all written documentation and related paperwork to the homeless liaison at the county office. The county liaison will review the materials and determine the eligibility, school selection, or enrollment decision within five working days of receiving the materials. He/she will notify you of the decision.

Name of County Office of Education homeless liaison: Shirley Abrams
Address: 9300 Imperial Highway, Downey, CA 90242-2890
Phone number: 562-922-6516

RIGHTS:

Pending the final resolution of this dispute, including the period of all appeals, the student has the right to immediately enroll in the school requested and to participate fully in school activities at that school.

EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN

Exhibit 2

ENROLLMENT DISPUTE FORM

Instructions: This form is to be completed by a parent/guardian or student when a dispute regarding enrollment has arisen. As an alternative to completing this form, the information on this form may be shared verbally with the district's liaison for homeless students.

Date submitted: _____

Name of person completing form: _____

Student's name: _____

Relation to student: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Name of school requested: _____

I wish to appeal the enrollment decision made by:

- District liaison
- District Superintendent
- County office of education liaison

Reason for the appeal: You may include an explanation to support your appeal in this space or provide your explanation verbally.

I have been provided with:

- A written explanation of the district's decision
- Contact information for the district's homeless liaison
- Contact information for the county office of education's homeless liaison
- Contact information for the state homeless coordinator